

15 February 1980

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

Staff Meeting Minutes of 15 February 1980

The Director chaired the meeting; Mr. Carlucci was out of the city.

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McMahon reported briefly on the following:

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Hetu called attention to the letter in today's Washington Star (attached) by former CIA officials L. Houston, W. Pforzheimer, and J. Warner.

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Clarke commented briefly on his meeting this morning with visiting university professors and alerted the Director to the kinds of questions he could expect.

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In response to a query from [] the Director said he hopes to take up [] issue with Secretary Vance today. [] said queries have been received from the HPSCI and SSCI re today's front page item in the Washington Post (attached) concerning U.S., allegedly CIA, support to Afghan insurgents. A brief discussion followed in which the Director advised [] to alert the Attorney General. Also, the

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[] called the Director's attention to hearings next week before the HFAC re Role of Intelligence in the Foreign Policy Process and the SSCI re Charters Legislation. In response to a query from the Director, [] said he will check on whether or not the SSCI event will be an open hearing. A brief discussion followed in which the Director said he would welcome the company of General Tighe, Admiral Inman, and Admiral Murphy to the Charters hearing.

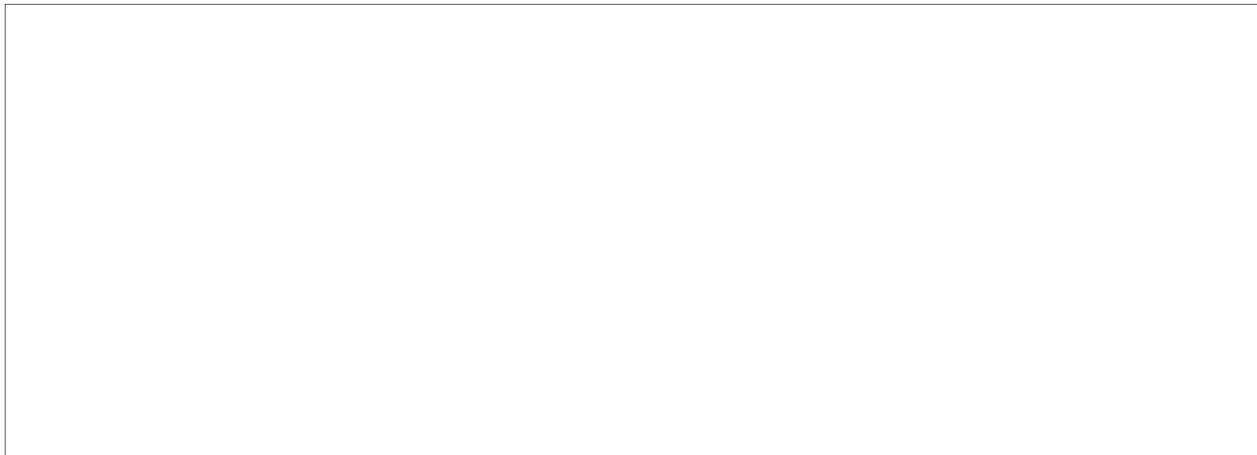
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TOP SECRET



Regarding the SSCI hearing on Charters, [] said specific questions from the committee will be available on Tuesday; he said a brief formal statement to the committee is being prepared for the Director by OLC and is to reach the committee by Wednesday. Noting a change in his itinerary for this weekend, the Director said he would like to review the material in Charlottesville on Monday, if possible. [] noted also the committee has asked for copies of all public statements made by the Director re Charters; OLC has pulled them together--no problems. []

Clarke said a hearing is scheduled next week by Representative Aspin re our track record on NIEs with particular focus on the current NIE 11-3/8: Clarke offered to handle the hearing and to amplify the Director's expressed concerns re net assessments. The Director concurred. []

[] said re the Director's upcoming worldwide wrap-up intelligence briefing to the Senate Budget Committee, 26 February, the committee is interested in the Director's views (partly because of his former Navy command role) on the role of the Soviet Navy. The Director agreed to do so and said he would be pleased to respond to any variety of committee interests including, for example, Soviet economics and the implications of no SALT II agreement. []



[] reported briefly on his and Les Dirks' visit yesterday to Cape Kennedy to view the space shuttle; he noted what seemed to be continuing problems with the shuttle's tile array. []

Clarke said President Tito's death is imminent, probably today. He said he has already requested FBIS and Spiers/INR to collect full coverage of Yugoslav television broadcasting on the event, noting Yugoslav leaders are likely to rely on television to communicate their post-Tito intentions with the Yugoslav citizenry. []

TOP SECRET



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The Director queried [] on the HFAC hearing re the role of intelligence in U.S. foreign policy. The Director concluded this was an interesting and important opportunity. Clarke noted this committee is positively disposed to intelligence needs and should be quite responsive. The Director said he plans to apprise them of our four or five legislative efforts and help the committee see us in the right perspective. The Director asked attendees to provide him beforehand any items of particular importance he should include at the hearing. []

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The Director called attention to an important SCC meeting scheduled for next Thursday, noting the agenda will focus on such important matters as the political/economic situation in Persian Gulf states, long-term implications of U.S. military presence in the Indian Ocean, capability of U.S. military intervention on short notice, Indian and Soviet reaction to B-52 deployments at Diego Garcia and contingency planning. []

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The Director reported briefly on his meeting at the White House today:

--Concern for how Iraq would move in response to Soviet attack, e.g., would they attempt to unify the total of Islam.

--Discussion on the possibility of Soviet invasion of Iran. The Director noted [] He said, despite a low probability of such an invasion, we should nonetheless give full focus in view of the enormous consequences.

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Attachments

SECRET

OFFICE OF CURRENT OPERATIONS NEWS SERVICE

Date. 15 Feb 80
Item No. 2
Ref. No. _____

DISTRIBUTION II

'A real shocker'

Your political editor, Jack W. Germond, notes "a sharp break with traditional political practice" arising out of President Carter's use of Director of Central Intelligence Stansfield Turner and Deputy Secretary of State Warren Christopher as "props" in television ads run in support of the president's re-election campaign in New England (*The Star*, Feb. 6).

While Mr. Germond states that neither Christopher nor Turner made any partisan statements in this television commercial — which was intended to convey difficult presidential decisions in foreign affairs — he then goes on to state that "the unwritten rule in politics has been that both the State Department and the CIA are kept entirely free of involvement in partisan politics."

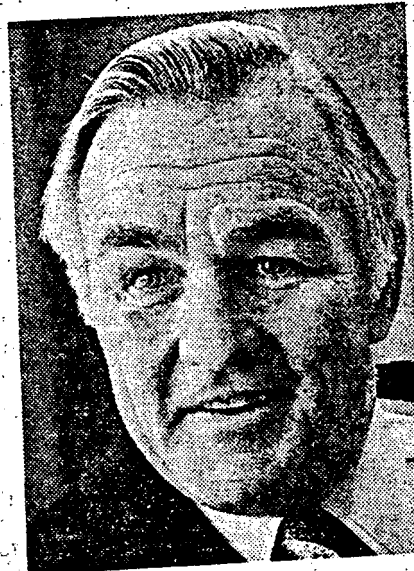
To us, as former officials of the CIA, this report of the use of the CIA's director as a prop in a television political commercial is a real shocker — what your editorial on Feb. 9 rightly calls "distinctly out of bounds."

Such use of the director has never occurred before. The CIA, since its establishment in 1947, has made every attempt to keep out of partisan political campaigns, other than to brief the presidential nominees on world affairs at the direction of the incumbent president, whether a Republican or a Democrat.

Now, for the CIA to find its director in political television commercials must be a harrowing experience for all those who are laboring in the intelligence vineyards at Langley, thinking of themselves, as your editorial suggests, as "servants of the republic rather than members of a supporting cast for political advertising."

Let us take this matter one step further. Commencing with the election of 1948 (the first presidential election after the establishment of the CIA), it has been CIA practice that the director not submit his resignation following either the re-election of the president or a change of administration.

Some of us were involved in advising CIA directors on this matter over the years, and we emphasized the



STANSFIELD TURNER
Out of bounds?

concept that the director, although he serves at the pleasure of the president, does not occupy a political position, and therefore it would be inappropriate for him to submit such a resignation as is traditionally done by members of the cabinet and other senior political appointees.

Thus, there was an established tradition that the position of director of central intelligence is non-political and should not be involved in any way in partisan politics. Now to find that the present director has been a part of a partisan campaign by his inclusion, with or without his knowledge, in a political television commercial is to us absolutely abhorrent.

It is demeaning to the American people, who have every reason to expect that the CIA's director is not enmeshed in partisan political activity. It is fervently to be hoped that this incredible occurrence will not be repeated.

Lawrence R. Houston,
Former General Counsel, CIA

Walter Pforzheimer,
Former Legislative Counsel, CIA

John S. Warner Sr.,
Formerly General Counsel and
Legislative Counsel, CIA

Washington, D.C.

ARTICLE APPEARED
ON PAGE A1-28THE WASHINGTON POST
15 February 1980

U.S. Reportedly Is Supplying Weapons to Afghan Insurgents

By Michael Getler

Washington Post Staff Writer

The United States is supplying weapons to rebel forces battling Soviet troops in Afghanistan, according to reliable sources.

The weapons, presumably being slipped across Pakistan's rugged 1,400-mile frontier with Afghanistan, are said to be mostly small arms and relatively simple anti-tank weapons that give a soldier the capability to knock out an armored vehicle.

The smuggled arms are said to be Soviet-built, which helps disguise the source of supply.

The covert U.S. weapons supply, which sources say began after the Soviets invaded Afghanistan on Dec. 24, is said to be "neither big nor dramatic."

Yet it does reflect a Carter administration decision to try to help the beleaguered and vastly outgunned rebel forces while raising the cost to the Soviets of their action.

Though it is not known precisely how the supply is being carried out, the operator presumably is the Central Intelligence Agency. Key committees of Congress responsible for overseeing covert activities have been kept informed of the administration actions by the State Department and CIA.

There are many areas outside the Soviet Union where Soviet-built weapons are in use and can be acquired. This includes a sizable underground arms market flowing west from Eastern Europe; Africa, where Cuban forces use and lose such weapons, and countries such as Egypt and China that were heavily supplied with Soviet arms but have since cut their military ties to Moscow.

The decision to supply arms, even in limited quantities, is a significant step beyond the aid the United States was providing Afghan insurgents prior to the Soviet invasion.

Moscow's quest for a suitable pro-Soviet government to help install in

Kabul in the year preceding the invasion involved a sizable military "advisory" presence. That, in turn, sparked increasing anti-Soviet resistance.

U.S. covert aid prior to the December invasion, according to sources, was limited to funneling small amounts of medical supplies and communications equipment to scattered rebel tribes, plus what is described as "technical advice" to the rebels about where they could acquire arms on their own.

The U.S. press also has reported that China is supplying arms aid to the rebels.

The Egyptian Defense Ministry in Cairo yesterday announced that it was training Afghan rebels in guerrilla warfare and plans to arm them and send them back to Afghanistan to battle the Soviet forces.

Moscow has consistently cited what it calls the "machinations of the aggressive imperialist forces" of the United States, China and Pakistan to rationalize its invasion. Washington rejects this, saying that there was no external threat to Afghanistan and that the real threat to that country comes from the Soviet army of occupation.

Thus the covert operation, even on a small scale, has always been sensitive.

The issue is especially sensitive now because of concern that the Soviets could use it to justify attacks on border regions with Pakistan. Several refugee camps in Pakistan are filled with thousands of Afghans who have fled their homeland, and some of them return home to fight.

On the other hand, the covert transactions could ultimately raise questions about whether the secret aid to the rebels, while helping to harass and tie up the Russian forces, may also hinder their departure, which is the administration's stated objective.

In recent years, Congress has tended to prohibit covert arms aid to beleaguered countries. The Afghanistan action, however, takes place in a new context—global tensions unleashed by the Soviet invasion.

U.S. officials have previously said privately that the insurgents were actually well supplied with arms by units of the Afghan army that defected to the rebel side. The U.S. need to slip some additional arms to the rebels would seem to contradict that view, unless the arms available inside Afghanistan are not suitable for use against the Soviet armored units.

Though the State Department has consistently declined to comment on questions about what, if any thing, the United States is and has been doing in Afghanistan, there have been a number of public hints of some U.S. action.

The clearest indication of some kind of pre-invasion activity inside Afghanistan came to light on Jan. 9—two weeks after the invasion—during an appearance on NBC-TV's "Today" show by Sen. Birch Bayh (D-Ind.).

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